



Friends of Dubwath Silver Meadows

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MINUTES OF MEETING

held on

Wednesday 27th January 2021 via Zoom

Present: Terry Peate David Thomason
 Alastair Yates Rick Petecki
 Gordon Pickering Barbara Petecka

1. Apologies: Joan Ingrams, Elaine Edwards, Mike Bradley.

2. **AGM & Future Meetings**

It was agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, 10th March 2021**, at 7.00 p.m., via Zoom.

Committee meeting to agree on Agenda – **Wednesday, 10th February 2021** at 7.00 p.m. via Zoom, after which a calling notice to be sent out to the “Friends”.

Committee meeting (brief) – **Wednesday, 24th February 2021**, 7.00 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss any items which may have been submitted by Friends to put before the AGM.

Action: Rick to ask Peter Macqueen and a representative from the Environment Agency if they would each give a short talk at the AGM.

3. **Bird-feeding**

Bird food is now being purchased from Oakhurst Garden Centre, in 20 kg bags, and seems to be working out cheaper, although Alastair pointed out that annual expenditure on the food has increased compared with the last two financial years, possibly due to there being a greater number of birds (?). Terry indicated that Oakhurst are likely to give us a discount in future and it would be good if we could acknowledge publicly that they are our suppliers via a note to that effect by the feed bin and/or in the reprint of the brochures.

4. **Celtic Shelter Rebuild**

Terry has spoken to Gareth at the Forestry Commission. He has an apprentice starting next week and will give him the job of supplying us with the poles. Terry suggested moving the site a couple of feet to the left or right to ease insertion of the 8 new poles. The floor of the shelter is intact and can be moved in one piece.

Rick reported that Embleton Parish Council had agreed in principle to help with the cost of the rebuild, provided that receipts are produced.

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It was agreed that due to the ongoing Covid pandemic work parties could not be convened, but when the weather improved it should be feasible for at least a couple of people to work at the same time, provided social distancing guidelines are strictly adhered to.

5. Norse Shelter

Terry reported on this. The shelter is in need of repair, particularly the wattle at the front. The inside has been extensively scribbled on, by people who use the black marker pen provided for sightings to be recorded on the whiteboard. Terry suggested painting the inside of the shelter black in order to prevent this and offered to do it. The pen is missing at present. **Rick** to replace this.

6. Accounts

Thanks to Alastair for emailing a note of the 2020 accounts. See below:

Money – DSM 2020. 11 months only, only rough amounts to the nearest £ or so!

Start Feb 2020 - £5690 in bank

Spent so far £900

Income £1050

In bank at present £5840 (end Dec 2020)

Big items – Public liability Insurance for site £410 (up £4 on last year!)

Bird feeding - complicated as we are using more than one supplier. Approx £460. Bird feeding costs have varied a lot over the last few years for a load of reasons including floods but this is still up by over £100 on the last 2 years. Something to look at in more detail at another meeting?

7. Other Business

Station café

Rick has discussed the possibility of a gate into the café grounds being situated opposite the DSM gate, for ease of access both ways, and Simon Parums (station owner) is prepared to consider this.

Boardwalk

Rick suggested getting the original installers to give us a quote for refurbishment as some areas are in need of attention.

Parking

The area outside the reserve had become very churned up and muddy. Hardcore has been put down to help to improve the surface.

Education

Ideas put forward by Terry: Information board in the Norse Shelter to help with bird identification. Leaflets for children to pick up and record what they've seen.

Action: Terry to look into purchase of large lockable noticeboard.

Website

Alastair reported that there is still a bit of work needed on the website, which he will do in due course.